USE OF EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML)

Definition of Terms:

Data and Information: Data is a combination of facts and meaning. Information consists of one or more pieces of data that are returned in response to a specific request. Example:  the fact $5.99 combines with the meaning "price" to form an understandable bit of data – USD $5.99 is the prices of the item.  When returned as the response to a request, such as "How much does that CD cost?" the answer becomes information.

Metadata: Metadata is a categorization and explanation of facts.  ISO 11179 defines it as the data that makes datasets (groups of facts and meanings) more useable.

Policy:

The Georgia Archives use of XML will comply with the open standards recommendations of GTA Enterprise Standard ENT-01-001-STD addressing XML.

Policy:

The Georgia Archives will not accept XML output (structured data) generated in an exclusive format, such as a proprietary XML schema, capable of being understood solely by the tool which generated it.

Use of XML:

In order to preserve historical data, The Georgia Archives will rely on XML version 1.0, second edition, and associated XML component architecture to validate and access records from agencies implementing XML as a data management tool for their records.

XML will be used in the following activities:
- Validation of transferred records through use of XML schemas for standard structured data such as proclamations or birth records.
- Transformation of records with no associated metadata into XML output to facilitate use.
- Alternation of non-standard metadata tags into standard tags.